

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim 45, wherein the at least one magnet further comprises at least one lateral magnet guided with the line facing the lateral guides, and wherein the lateral guides have at least one lateral-guide magnet, in each instance, which is disposed in such a manner that it repels the lateral magnet as it approaches.

Claims 4-5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim 5 45, wherein the at least one magnet comprises several upper-side magnets disposed along the first and the second ~~section~~ sections, at a distance from one another, in such a manner that magnetic poles along the first section face similarly

named magnetic poles along the second section.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim 2 ~~47~~, wherein the at least one magnet comprises several lower-side magnets disposed along the line, each of said lower side magnets being disposed at a distance from ~~one~~ another of said lower side magnets, and the at least one distribution-surface magnet comprises several distribution-surface magnets ~~are~~ disposed on the distribution surface, each of said distribution-surface magnets being disposed at a distance from ~~one~~ another of said distribution-surface magnets, in such a manner that magnetic poles along the line face similarly named magnetic poles on the distribution surface.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim 3, wherein the at least one lateral-guide magnet comprises several lateral-guide magnets ~~are~~ disposed along the lateral guides, each of said lateral-guide magnets being disposed at a distance from ~~one~~ another of said lateral-guide magnets, and the at least one magnet comprises several lateral magnets disposed along the sides of the line that face the lateral guides, each of

said lateral magnets being disposed at a distance from ~~one~~  
another of said lateral magnets, in such a manner that magnetic  
poles of the lateral-guide magnets face similarly named magnetic  
poles of the lateral magnets.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim  
8, wherein the lateral-guide magnets are disposed on ~~every~~ each  
of said lateral guide guides in ~~two~~ first and second rows, the  
first row extending that run at a distance ~~from one another, one~~  
above the ~~other~~ second row.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The device according to  
claim 45, wherein the at least one magnet comprises at least one  
member selected from the group consisting of lower-side magnets,  
~~and/or~~ lateral magnets ~~and/or~~ and upper-side magnets disposed on  
the line.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim  
45, wherein the at least one magnet comprises at least one member  
selected from the group consisting of lower-side magnets, ~~and/or~~  
lateral magnets ~~and/or~~ and upper-side magnets and the line is  
disposed in a carrier that carries ~~the lower side magnets and/or~~

~~the lateral magnets and/or the upper side magnets~~ said at least one member.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim 11, wherein ~~the lower side magnets and/or the lateral magnets and/or the upper side magnets~~ are said at least one member is disposed on the an outer surface of the carrier.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim 11, wherein ~~the lower side magnets and/or the lateral magnets and/or the upper side magnets~~ are said at least one member is disposed in the carrier.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim 11, wherein ~~the lower side magnets and/or the lateral magnets and/or the upper side magnets~~ are said at least one member is disposed in accommodation openings in ~~the~~ an outer surface of the carrier.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The device according to claim 11, wherein the carrier is a sheath that encloses the line.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The device according to claim 11, wherein the carrier is a plastic mass in which several lines are embedded.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The device according to claim 11, wherein the carrier is a power supply chain.

Claims 18-19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim ~~19~~ 46, wherein the at least one magnet of the power supply chain comprises several upper-side magnets disposed on the lower side of the upper stringer of the power supply chain and on the upper side of the lower stringer of the power supply chain, each of said upper-side magnets being disposed at a distance from ~~one~~ another of said upper-side magnets, in such a manner that magnetic poles on the upper stringer face similarly named magnetic poles on the lower stringer.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim 46, wherein the at least one magnet of the power supply

chain further comprises at least one lower-side magnet on a lower side of the power supply chain, facing the distribution surface, and wherein the distribution surface has at least one distribution surface magnet, which is disposed in such a manner that it repels the lower side magnet of the power supply chain as it approaches.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim 21, wherein the at least one magnet of the power supply chain comprises several lower-side magnets disposed along the lower side, each of said lower-side magnets being disposed at a distance from ~~one~~ another of said lower-side magnets, and the at least one distribution surface magnet comprises several distribution surface magnets ~~are~~ disposed on the distribution surface, each of said distribution surface magnets being disposed at a distance from ~~one~~ another of said distribution surface magnets, in such a manner that magnetic poles on the lower side face similarly named magnetic poles on the distribution surface.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim 46, wherein the at least one magnet of the power supply chain comprises at least one lateral magnet on sides of the power

supply chain facing the lateral guides, and wherein the lateral guides have at least one lateral-guide magnet, in each instance, which is disposed in such a manner that a magnetic pole of the lateral guide magnet faces a similarly named magnetic pole of the lateral magnet.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim 23, wherein the at least one lateral magnet of the power supply chain comprises several lateral magnets disposed along the power supply chain, each of said lateral magnets being disposed at a distance from ~~one~~ another of said lateral magnets, and the at least one lateral-guide magnet comprises several lateral-guide magnets are disposed along the lateral guides, each of said lateral-guide magnets being disposed at a distance from ~~one~~ another of said lateral-guide magnets, in each instance, in such a manner that magnetic poles of the lateral magnets face similarly named magnetic poles of the lateral-guide magnets.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim 24, wherein the lateral-guide magnets are disposed in ~~two~~ first and second rows, the first row extending that run at a distance ~~from one another and on top of one another~~ above the

second row.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim 46 ~~48~~, wherein the distribution trough has a slide rail for laying down ~~the~~ an upper stringer of the power supply chain, wherein the distribution trough magnet comprises at least one slide-rail magnet ~~is~~ disposed on the slide rail, and wherein the at least one magnet of the power supply chain comprises at least one upper-side magnet disposed on the lower side of the upper stringer that faces the slide rail, in such a manner that a magnetic pole of the upper-side magnet faces a similarly named magnetic pole of the slide-rail magnet.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim 26, wherein the at least one magnet of the power supply chain comprises several upper-side magnets disposed on the power supply chain, each of said upper-side magnets being disposed at a distance from ~~one~~ another of said upper-side magnets, and the at least one slide-rail magnet comprises several slide-rail magnets are disposed on the slide rail, each of said slide-rail magnets being disposed at a distance from ~~one~~ another of said slide-rail magnets, in such a manner that magnetic poles of the upper-side



magnets face similarly named magnetic poles of the slide-rail magnets.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The device according to claim 45, wherein the distribution trough is made of a non-magnetic material.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim 45, further comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of lateral-guide magnets, ~~and/or~~ distribution-surface magnets ~~and/or~~ and slide rail magnets disposed on the surface of the distribution trough.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim 45, further comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of lateral-guide magnets, ~~and/or~~ distribution-surface magnets ~~and/or~~ and slide rail magnets inserted into openings in the distribution trough.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim 45, further comprising at least one first member selected

from the group consisting of lateral-guide magnets, and/or  
distribution-surface magnets ~~and/or~~ and slide rail magnets,  
wherein the at least one magnet guided by the at least one line  
comprises at least one second member selected from the group  
consisting of lateral magnets, and/or lower-side magnets and/or  
and upper-side magnets and at least one of said at least one  
first member and said at least one second member the  
~~lateral guide magnets and/or the distribution surface magnets~~  
~~and/or the lateral magnets and/or the lower side magnets and/or~~  
~~the upper side magnets and/or the slide rail magnets~~ are  
permanent magnets.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): The device according to  
claim 45, further comprising at least one first member selected  
from the group consisting of lateral-guide magnets, and/or  
distribution-surface magnets ~~and/or~~ and slide rail magnets,  
wherein the at least one magnet guided by the at least one line  
comprises at least one second member selected from the group  
consisting of lateral magnets, and/or lower-side magnets and/or  
and upper-side magnets and at least one of said at least one  
first member and said at least one second member the  
~~lateral guide magnets and/or the distribution surface magnets~~

~~and/or the lateral magnets and/or the lower side magnets and/or the upper side magnets and/or the slide rail magnets are~~  
electromagnets.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): A power supply chain, for use in a distribution device according to claim 46, comprising at least one first upper-side magnet on the upper side of its lower stringer and at least one second upper-side magnet on the lower side of its upper stringer, whereby a magnetic pole on the lower stringer faces a similarly named magnetic pole on the upper stringer.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): The power supply chain according to claim 33, wherein the at least one upper side magnet comprises several upper-side magnets are disposed on the upper side of its lower stringer and on the lower side of its upper stringer, in each instance, in such a manner that magnetic poles on the upper stringer face similarly named magnetic poles on the lower stringer.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): The power supply chain, for use in a distribution device according to claim 46, comprising at

least one member selected from the group consisting of at least one lower-side magnet on its lower side ~~and/or~~ and at least one lateral magnet on the lateral surfaces of the chain links.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): The power supply chain according to claim 35, wherein the at least one member comprises at least one lateral magnets are magnet disposed on its lateral links.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): The power supply chain according to claim 33, wherein said at least one member is the ~~lower side magnets and/or the upper side magnets~~ are disposed on the connection crosspieces that connect ~~the~~ lateral links.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): The power supply chain according to claim 33, wherein said at least one member is the ~~lower side magnets and/or the upper side magnets~~ are disposed on ~~the~~ lateral links of the power supply chain.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): The power supply chain according to claim 33, wherein the power supply chain comprises a plurality of chain links and the at least one upper-side magnet

comprises a pair of upper-side magnets ~~is~~ disposed on ~~every~~ each of ~~said~~ chain ~~link~~ links, symmetrical to the center longitudinal plane, extending on both sides in the longitudinal direction of the respective chain link.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): The power supply chain according to claim 39, wherein ~~the~~ each upper-side magnets ~~have~~ ~~elevations~~ magnet has an elevation that ~~run in their~~ extends in a longitudinal direction and ~~point~~ points away from the respective chain ~~links~~ link.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): The power supply chain according to claim 40, wherein the elevations of the upper-side magnets of consecutive said chain links are disposed at different distances from their sides.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): The power supply chain according to claim 41, wherein in the case of each of said chain ~~link~~ links, ~~the elevations are~~ each elevation is disposed as in the case of ~~the~~ an nth subsequent chain link, whereby n is a natural number.

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): The power supply chain according to claim 42, wherein n is greater than or equal to 3.

Claim 44 (Currently Amended): The power supply chain according to claim 33, further comprising rollers that roll along the lateral guides on ~~its~~ sides facing the lateral guides of a the distribution trough.

Claim 45 (Currently Amended): A distribution device comprising:

(a) at least one line;

(b) a distribution trough for receiving the at least one line, said distribution trough having a distribution surface and lateral guides; and

(c) at least one magnet guided with the at least one line, ~~said at least one magnet being disposed on or underneath a side of the line pointing downwards;~~

~~wherein said at least one magnet holds the at least one line suspended in the distribution trough at least over a part of a length of the at least one line~~

wherein the at least one line is folded in the distribution trough, in such a manner that a first section of the line has a

lower side that faces the distribution surface, above an upper side, that faces away from the distribution surface, of a second section of the line connected with the first section of the line via a bent section;

and wherein the said at least one magnet is guided on the lower side of the first section and the upper-side of the second section so that a magnetic pole of the at least one magnet on the first section faces a similarly named pole of the at least one magnet on the second section so that the first section of the line is held at least over a part of its length suspended above the second section of the line.

Claim 46 (Currently Amended): A distribution device comprising:

(a) a power supply chain comprising at least one magnet; and  
(b) a distribution trough for receiving the power supply chain, said distribution trough having a distribution surface and lateral guides;

~~wherein said at least one magnet holds the power supply chain suspended in the distribution trough at least over a part of a length of the power supply chain~~

wherein the power supply chain is folded in the distribution

trough, in such a manner that an upper stringer of the power supply chain has a lower side that faces the distribution surface, above an upper side, that faces away from the distribution surface, of a lower stringer of the power supply chain; and

wherein the said at least one magnet is guided on the lower side of the upper stringer and on the upper-side of the lower stringer so that a magnetic pole of the at least one magnet on the upper stringer faces a similarly named pole of the at least one magnet on the lower stringer so that the upper stringer of the power supply chain is held at least over a part of its length suspended above the lower stringer of the power supply chain.

Claim 47 (new): A distribution device comprising:

(a) at least one line;

(b) a distribution trough for receiving the at least one line, said distribution trough having a distribution surface and lateral guides; and

(c) at least one magnet guided with the at least one line;

wherein the at least one magnet guided with the at least one line faces the distribution surface; and

wherein the distribution surface has at least one



distribution-surface magnet that repels the at least one magnet guided with the line so that the line is held at least over a part of its length suspended above the distribution surface.

Claim 48 (new): A distribution device comprising:

- (a) a power supply chain comprising at least one magnet;
- (b) a distribution trough for receiving the at least one power supply chain, said distribution trough having a distribution surface and lateral guides; and

wherein the at least one magnet of the power supply chain faces the distribution surface; and

wherein the distribution trough has at least one distribution-trough magnet that repels the at least one magnet of the power supply chain so that the power supply chain is held at least over a part of its length suspended above the distribution trough.